

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A pad support for a beverage maker, comprising a bottom (14;64) forming a barrier for beverage liquid flowing from a supported pad (18), a discharge opening (19) in said bottom (14;64) for discharging beverage liquid through said bottom (14;64), and a nozzle (22;72) restricting said discharge opening (19) for generating a beverage liquid jet from said nozzle (22; 72), and a plurality of pad support projections (16, 17) comprising an innermost plurality (17) of said support projections projecting from said bottom (14;64) at positions circumferentially distributed around said discharge opening (19), characterized in that, seen in top plan view towards said bottom (14;64), at least some from among said innermost plurality of support projections (17) have a cross-section that is elongate in a radial direction with respect to said discharge opening (19).

2. (original) A pad support according to claim 1, wherein said elongate cross-sections each have a length in a radial direction with respect to said discharge opening (19) and have a largest width located radially outside the middle of said length in a radial direction with respect to said discharge opening (19).

3. (currently amended) A pad support according to claim ~~1 or 2~~, wherein said elongate cross-sections each have an innermost end (23) and an outermost end (24), the innermost end (23) being sharper than the outermost end (24).

4. (currently amended) A pad support according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein neighboring ones from among said innermost plurality of support projections (17) have straight wall portions (25, 26) facing each other, thus bounding a passage (27;77) between said neighboring projections (17) having a width which is constant or decreases in radial direction towards said discharge opening (19).

5. (currently amended) A pad support according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said cross-sections elongate in a radial direction with respect to said discharge opening (19) are wing or droplet-shaped.

6. (currently amended) A pad support according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein distal ends of said support projections define a support bed (30) for supporting said pad (18), wherein said bottom (14;64) has an outermost circumference (29),

and wherein the distance between said bottom (14;64) and said support bed (30) increases in radial directions towards said discharge opening (19) at least in a ring-shaped portion (28) of said bottom (14;64) surrounding said discharge opening and radially and inwardly spaced away from said outermost circumference (29).

7. (original) A pad support according to claim 6, wherein, in said ring-shaped portion (28) of said bottom (14;64), said bottom slopes more steeply than in bottom portions radially outside said ring-shaped bottom portion (28).

8. (currently amended) A pad support according to claim ~~6 or 7~~, wherein said innermost plurality of support projections (17) project from said ring-shaped bottom portion (28).

9. (currently amended) A pad support according to ~~any one of the claims 6 to 8~~ claim 6, wherein, in said ring-shaped portion (28) of said bottom (14;64) surrounding said discharge opening (19), said bottom (14;64) slopes more steeply than in bottom portions between said ring-shaped portion (28) and said discharge opening (19).

10. (currently amended) A pad support according to ~~any one of the claims 6 to 8~~ claim 6, wherein said bottom (14;64) has a flat

portion (31;81) between said ring-shaped portion (28) and said discharge opening (19).

11. (currently amended) A pad support according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the discharge opening (19) has a sharp upstream separation edge (34) forming a transition from said bottom (14; 64) to said discharge opening (19) for causing a separation of beverage liquid from the discharge opening (19) as the beverage liquid flows into the discharge opening (19).

12. (currently amended) A foam unit comprising a pad support (15;65) according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1 and a buffer reservoir (36) positioned downstream of the nozzle (22) for retaining a buffer quantity of beverage liquid such that, in operation, beverage liquid is jetted from the nozzle (22) into the buffer quantity of beverage liquid.

13. (original) A beverage maker comprising:

a water heating and feeding structure (45-47) communicating with a brewing chamber (13) for feeding hot water under pressure towards said brewing chamber (13);

a foam unit according to claim 12; and

a beverage dispensing passage communicating with said buffer reservoir (36),

wherein the pad support (15;65) bounds a bottom side of said brewing chamber (13).

14. (currently amended) A method of preparing a beverage with a foam layer, comprising steps of forcing water through a granulate or powder upstream of a filter wall of a pad (18) and of receiving the beverage from the pad (18) using a pad support (15;65) according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 11~~claim 1, the beverage liquid flow being such that a laminar flow pattern is obtained in an area directly upstream of said discharge opening (19).